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ARMED FORCES

SERVICEMEN-INVENTORS RECEIVE AWARDS

Moscow ZNAMENOSETS in Russian No 5, May 81 (signed to press 21 Apr 81) p 7

[Article by Engr-Col A. Burdenko, chief of group, Department of Invention, Ministry of Defense: "Awards of the Exhibition of Achievements of the National Economy USSR for Servicemen"]

[Text] The Central Exhibition of the Youth's Scientific and Technical Creativity, "Lenin Komsomol--for the 26th CPSU Congress," took place at the VDNKh [Exhibition of Achievements of the National Economy] of the USSR in January-March of this year. At it young inventors and rationalizers of our motherland and of eight socialist countries demonstrated about 10,000 exhibits.

The innovators of the Armed Forces presented about 1,000 works at this exhibition, the overwhelming majority of which were concentrated in such sections as electronics, electrical engineering, machine building, and construction.

As a rule, the technical innovations of the servicemen were distinguished by a high level of execution. Suffice it to say, 40 percent of the army exhibits were adjudged inventions and protected by author's certificates. One hundred fourteen medals of the VDNKh USSR, including 10 gold and 24 silver--this is the result of the participation by the servicemen-innovators in the regular exhibition.

A gold medal, for example, was awarded to Engineer-Captain Yu. Vasenev, one of the authors of an instrument intended for monitoring the turbine blades of an engine. Use of this instrument permitted raising the accuracy and quality of measurements by 20 percent and doubling or tripling the productivity of labor. The instrument has been accepted for introduction at all aviation repair enterprises.

The group of builders created fast-setting polymer-cement waterproofing. The low cost of the material and simple technology permit abandoning traditional labor-intensive methods for caring for freshly laid concrete. One of the authors of this valuable invention, Private A. Vasil'ev, was awarded a silver medal. Silver medals were also awarded to Warrant Officer [praporchshik] V. Volotnev and Privates V. Ryadinskiy and S. Starkov.

Bronze medals were awarded to Warrant Officers [michman] O. Volkov and M. Novikov, to Warrant Officers [praporshchik] G. Dolgikh and V. Lobanov, Master Sergeant V. Daranchuk, Privates V. Vdovenko, S. Drozdov, V. Marevskiy, A. Stetsyuk, and others.

Fourteen collectives of troop units, scientific research institutions, military educational institutions, and enterprises of the Ministry of Defense were awarded certificates of the VDNKh USSR. Innovators of the Strategic Rocket Forces, Air Defense Forces, Air Forces, Kiev and Odessa Military Districts, and the Moscow Air Defense District took an especially active part in the exhibition.

Proceeding from the decisions of the 26th CPSU Congress for the further development of mass scientific and technical creativity in the country, the All-Union Review of the Youth's Scientific and Technical Creativity will be continued in the 11th Five-Year Plan with the organization of Central Exhibitions at the VDNKh in 1982 and 1985. Unquestionably, the young Armed Forces innovators will take an active part in them.

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GROUND FORCES

LONG-RANGE TANK FIRING EXERCISE DESCRIBED

Moscow ZNAMENOSETS in Russian No 5, May 81 (signed to press 21 Apr 81) pp 10-11

[Article by Col V. Lyzlov, Red Banner Siberian Military District: "At Long Ranges"]

[Text] In the summer of 1942 a tank platoon under the command of Junior Lieutenant P. Krikunov, which was operating in the advance party, executed a march toward a crossing over the Oskol River. From one of the hills it was noticed that ahead, approximately three or four kilometers, a fascist antitank battery was occupying firing positions. The officer decided to destroy the enemy by fire from a distant line. For if movement is continued, the enemy artillerymen would be better able to prepare for firing, dig in, and would become less vulnerable during this time. In addition, from a short distance the fascist guns would be able to inflict losses on the tanks themselves but they were in no condition to do this at a great range.

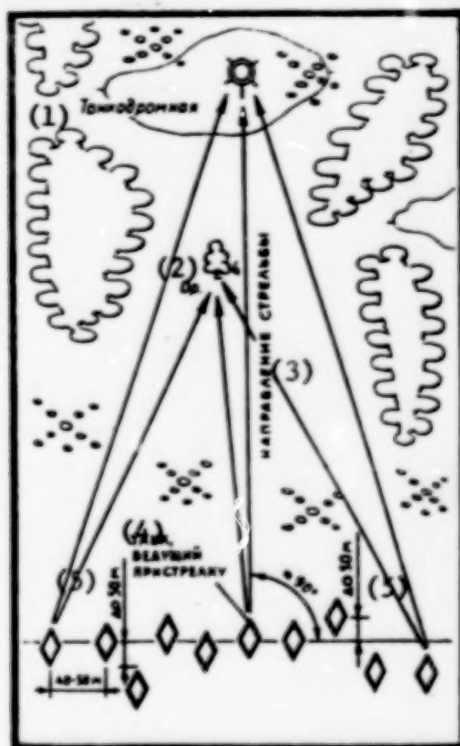
Conducting an adjustment quickly, the platoon commander commanded the settings for the other tanks which had deployed into a line by this time. The fascist battery was destroyed by accurate fire. Junior Lieutenant Krikunov was awarded the Order of the Red Star for his bold actions and display of initiative.

This was during the war years. In contemporary highly maneuverable and dynamic battle the ability of the tankers to destroy targets at maximum ranges is increasing even more. The objectives of such fire will be the enemy's means for the delivery of nuclear weapons, PTUR [antitank guided missile] and other antitank weapons, helicopters, massings of personnel and equipment, and artillery and mortar batteries.

As a rule, fire at long ranges is conducted by subunit since it has little effect from a single tank. Concentration of the fire of several crews increases the probability of destruction sharply. For example, when firing on an enemy tank using adjusted settings at a range of 2,500 meters it equals approximately 25 percent, for a platoon (with the expenditure of one round per tank)--60, and for a company--95.

As a rule, firing positions for firing at long ranges are occupied from the march, on a line perpendicular to the line of direction to the target. Here, the size of the intervals between the combat vehicles depends on the nature of the objective to be destroyed. If it is small, then minimum intervals (up to 10-15 meters) are advantageous. When firing on a large target, it is advantageous to have the front of the firing subunit approximately equal to the front of the objective being destroyed. When selecting firing positions, large range differences between guns should be

avoided since the difference in the firing ranges between the vehicles requires the application of individual corrections to the sight settings (see diagram).



Key:

- | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Tankodromnaya Hill | 4. Tank which is firing |
| 2. Reference point | 5. Up to 50 meters |
| 3. Line of fire | |

Only one fire mission is accomplished from one firing position.

The initial settings for firing are determined by the commander of the firing subunit. For great accuracy, corrections should be applied to them immediately for those deviations in meteorological and ballistic conditions of fire whose consideration is possible in the given situation: for example, for air and powder temperature, cross- or range wind, drift, and drop in muzzle velocity (direct laying). If the range of fire exceeds the value of maximum range on the sight scale, indirect laying is accomplished: the gun is aimed by direct sighting, and the angle of elevation is set from the longitudinal level. Here, the angle of elevation is taken from the firing tables (it is announced by the commander in the command), and the angle of site to the objective being destroyed is determined by actually aiming the gun with zero sight setting.

Adjustment for direction is conducted by changing the laying mark. For this, the firer measures the deviation of the shell burst, after which he shifts the gun by an angle which is equal in value and opposite in direction to the observed deviation.

It is expedient to observe the deviation of the first burst with the naked eye or through binoculars, while the gunner should observe through an instrument which has the greatest field of view angle.

Adjustment by bracketing the target is accomplished by one tank--by the commander's tank or the tank of the crew which first discovered the objective.

A ladder adjustment is accomplished more rapidly and is conducted by platoon. It is accomplished by salvos of deliberate fire (10-15 seconds between rounds) or a volley. To obtain a platoon ladder, all tanks are assigned different initial settings. The platoon commander conducts fire at the initial setting, the second tank two divisions higher, and the third--two divisions lower.

If, as a result of the first salvo (volley) the target is bracketed by the ladder or there is a hit, they switch to fire for effect at the sight setting at which the hit was obtained.

With the presence of all sightings of one sign in the salvo (volley), a second salvo (volley) is fired in which the settings of all sights are changed by six divisions (600 meters).

During the adjustment, all the other crews conduct observation, lay the guns on the target, and apply to the settings the changes which are given in the commands to the firer. This procedure permits going into fire for effect by the entire subunit at any moment without delay. It is begun, as a rule, by a salvo of deliberate fire with the expenditure of one round per tank and at a 5-10 second interval. If the target has not been destroyed after the first salvo, refinements are applied to the individual settings of each tank and firing is continued with rapid fire with the expenditure of one to four rounds per tank. Fire ceases when the target has been destroyed or the designated number of rounds has been fired.

The experience of the leading subunits shows that if the personnel are well trained in correct firing at long ranges and operate skillfully at the gun, the crews can accomplish the most difficult fire missions successfully. I should like to confirm this thought by an example from some tactical exercises with live firing. The tank platoon commanded by Warrant Officer [praporshchik] V. Korshunov attacked on the company left flank. The commander noted an "enemy" launcher in the brush on a hill. Warrant Officer Korshunov decided to destroy the dangerous target by concentrated platoon fire at maximum range, which he reported to the company commander. Receiving "OK," he gave the command to occupy firing position and, without losing time, he himself determined the range to the target and considered drift and cross wind.

"Fragmentation, Reference Point 4, right 60, launcher, elevation 32, second right mark, at target center, ladder, volley, load..." the warrant officer's command was heard over the radio.

In accordance with the first part of the command, Sergeant N. Velichko (tank No. 2) ordered the loader to load the gun with a fragmentation shell, and the gunner to set elevation 34 and lay the second right mark at the center of the target, after which he reported readiness.

In tank No. 3, whose gunner had not yet found the target, Sergeant N. Sergeyev took over control of the turret himself and layed the gun on the target, in so doing gave the command to load, and he announced the initial settings: elevation 30, second right mark, target center.

The first volley followed. The exploded shell of tank No. 2 (elevation 34) threw up a cloud of dust near the target, hitting it with fragments. However, for greater reliability, Warrant Officer Korshunov commanded:

"Elevation 34, third right mark, at target center, one round, rapid fire, fire!"

When the smoke from the bursts had dissipated, the tanker saw that the "enemy" launcher had been destroyed and the company could continue its advance unhindered.

Such a high level of ability of the commanders and the coordination of the crews in firing at long ranges ensured the subunit's successful accomplishment of the training-combat mission.

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GROUND FORCES

ANTI-TANK GUIDED MISSILE DEFENSE TACTICS DESCRIBED

Moscow ZNAMENOSETS in Russian No 5, May 81 (signed to press 21 Apr 81) pp 14-15

[Article by Maj Gen L. Ryazanov and Col G. Kuvitanov: "Attention--Antitank Guided Missiles"; passages enclosed in slantlines printed in boldface]

[Text] Recently, military specialists of the armies of a number of Western countries have been devoting much attention to questions of increasing the mobility of the antitank defense. Under cover of a hypocritical campaign about the "Soviet military threat," intensive efforts are under way for more improved antitank weapons (PTS), especially antitank guided missiles (PTUR).

Today, second-generation PTUR's, in particular, are in the inventory of the armies of a number of Western countries. Their improvement is proceeding along the path of increasing flight range and speed, armor penetrability, and accuracy in guidance to the target. Flight ranges of 4,000 meters, armor penetrability of 500 millimeters, and transonic flight speed have been attained and a semi-automatic guidance system has been developed. Here, the dead space has been reduced to 30-75 meters.

According to reports in the Western military press, third-generation PTUR's will have supersonic speed, a flight range of up to 8,000 meters, and an automatic guidance system which will permit the gunner-operator to operate on the principle of "fire and forget."

According to the views of the leadership of the NATO armies, the contemporary defense, saturated with PTS, should have a deeply echeloned system of antitank fire. Here, special significance is attached to the interaction of the PTS with tanks and infantry, artillery, and combat engineers. Explosive mine and other antitank obstacles are widely used to force the attackers to reduce the speed of attack, emerge on open terrain, and to be drawn into killing grounds and zones of destruction. Thus, the armored objects of the attacking forces, falling within the sights of the PTS, will continuously be under the steadily increasing effect of the defenders.

The conclusion suggests itself: in order to operate successfully under such conditions and to achieve victory over a strong, technically equipped enemy it is necessary to be able to combat PTS successfully, especially PTUR's. And proceeding correctly are those commanders, including those of small subunits, who devote primary attention in the course of combat training to teaching the crews of tanks and

BMP's [infantry combat vehicle] the procedures and methods for destroying these weapons and attaining fire superiority over the enemy on the battlefield.

This, for example, is how the commander of the excellent tank platoon, Guards Warrant Officer [praporshchik] A. Terent'yev, trains his subordinates. He sees that each tankerman firmly knows the tactical and technical characteristics and combat capabilities of the PTS of the probable enemy, their strong and weak aspects, and the principles for their combat deployment.

The experienced methodologist devotes special attention to instilling in his trainees confidence in the strength and reliability of the tank and conviction in its superiority over the PTUR/.

In a fire duel with a PTUR, he teaches his subordinates, the tank crew will win under one condition--if the tankers discover the target quickly, open fire first and destroy the target with the first round, and are able to hinder or prevent the enemy from conducting aimed fire at their vehicle.

Without belittling the strong aspects of the PTUR, Warrant Officer Terent'yev scrupulously analyzes its shortcomings by considering which the crew can win in a fire duel. In particular, the weak aspects of the PTUR include a long time of flight (up to 20 seconds), lack of protection and, therefore, the vulnerability of the gunner-operator, especially the portable complex, giving the firing position away at the moment of launch, low rate of fire, a sharp reduction in hit probability with the laying of a smoke screen, blinding, and the presence of an unbeaten or dead zone. In addition, the projectile's flight to the target can be interrupted even by the most insignificant obstacles.

Everything which the experienced methodologist persistently and consistently taught his subordinates was fully used by them in training battle. The platoon commanded by Warrant Officer Terent'yev was at the tip of the attack. Maneuvering skillfully and utilizing folds in the terrain, cover, and local objects, driver-mechanics Private First Class N. Krichen' and Privates N. Trefilov and A. Rzayev closed with the PTUR swiftly, providing the gunners with the best conditions for the conduct of fire (see figures 1, 2, and 3).

Tank commander Sergeant M. Voytyuk operated with initiative. Gunner V. Shevtsov, noticing a PTUR, quickly gave target indication over the TPU [tank intercom system]."

"Reference Point 4, right 10, closer 100, PTUR, 2500."

The tank commander was to give the following command: "Fragmentation, Reference Point 4, right 10, closer 100, PTUR, 2500, on the march...fire!" But he gave the shortest possible command: "Fragmentation--fire!". The target was destroyed with the first round.

Did the sergeant proceed correctly? Yes, correctly. And here is why. In our example, the gunner was the first to notice the target. This means that there was no necessity, in giving the command for destruction, to announce to the one sitting behind the sight data on the target's location and nature which he already knew. As a practical matter, this meant that the command was 10 words shorter. Is that much or

little? If we calculate the time, then 10 words are 6-7 seconds. During this time the PTUR will fly 1,200-1,500 meters and the tank will manage to move about 40 meters. Here is what is actually true: brevity is the sister of the commander's talent.

On another tactical exercise a tank commanded by Junior Sergeant Ya. Myuyersepp attacked on the platoon left flank. The gunner discovered the PTUR in time at a great range and reported to the commander. Junior Sergeant Myuyersepp spent about a minute to look for the dangerous target in the sight. And when he finally saw it, he decided to report it to the platoon commander so that the latter could concentrate the fire of the entire subunit using a setting. But here the young sergeant found himself in difficulty: there was not the slightest noticeable reference point near the target--he was worried, not knowing how to orient the senior commander. And then he spent additional minutes on a radio report. The gunner-operator of the PTUR was able to fire two aimed shots during this time and he "knocked out" two of the platoon's tanks, including Myuyersepp's.

The tank commander should have immediately given the command to the gunner to open fire and reported to the officer by radio approximately as follows: "A PTUR launcher directly in front of me, 2500, observe shell burst."

Often in the course of a training battle some noncommissioned officers commit serious errors because they have poor knowledge of the tactical and technical characteristics of the PTUR's of the probable enemy's armies, of the principles for their employment, and of their combat capabilities. It is for this very reason that Guards Senior Sergeant Kuchinskiy, who was operating as the commander of a motorized rifle platoon, had to endure the bitterness of defeat in battle.

In general, he conducted a successful battle in the depth of the "enemy's" defense when suddenly two PTUR launchers rose up on the right as he was moving, about 400 meters away. Kuchinskiy did not react to them. The platoon continued to move on its former course. With a great delay, as they say, to clear his conscience, the senior sergeant ordered one BMP crew to open fire on the launchers from the right side. But the subordinate sergeant did not succeed in executing this command: the PTUR "set all the vehicles on fire" in a few half-minutes.

When Kuchinskiy was asked to explain his strange decision, he answered that PTUR's are not dangerous from a distance of 400 meters since their dead space is 500-600 meters. What can be said in this regard? The senior sergeant was using obsolete information (about first-generation PTUR's). He took these data from diagrams and figures which had been placed in the unit training center....

/The time to accomplish a fire mission is the decisive factor in the struggle with antitank weapons. Ways to reduce it should be persistently sought in all directions. The main way is improving the ability of motorized riflemen and tankers to attack PTS which have come to life at maximum possible speeds with the intensive conduct of fire from the march and with powerful artillery fire support. Already the very fact of a rapidly oncoming steel avalanche of tanks and BMP's which have brought down a storm of fire exerts a strong psychological influence on the defenders, especially on unprotected PTUR complexes/.

The following detail is curious. According to data of foreign specialists, the deviation of the impact point from the aiming point of a PTUR is 15-20 dts [expansion unknown] at a range of 3,000 meters, but under the condition that the gunner-operator conducts fire in a calm situation. With the presence of unfavorable factors (effect of fire, smoke-screening of the target and firing position, dust, target's movement at high speed, its maneuvering) the probability of hitting, let us say, a tank is reduced several fold.

The commander of an excellent company, Guards Senior Lieutenant N. Krylov, also organizes the training of the tankers proceeding from these preconditions. To ensure fire superiority over the enemy, on all lessons and drills the crews persistently learn to attack at high speeds, to conduct fire at a high rate, and to hit any targets accurately, day and night.

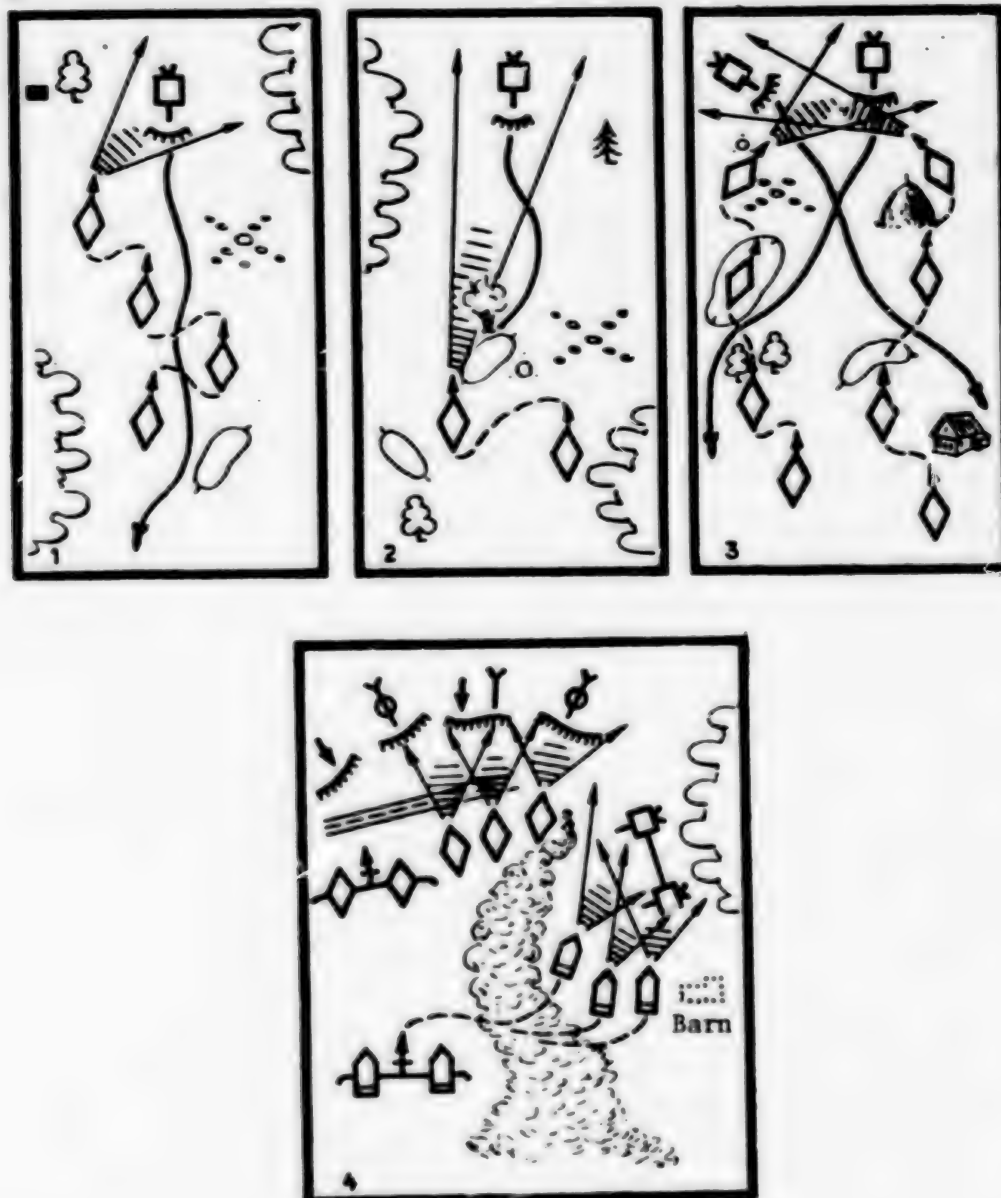
The company conducted a decisive attack, operating as part of a battalion and in close cooperation with a motorized rifle subunit on BMP's. The "enemy," having a deeply echeloned defense which was saturated with PTS, created a well thought out system of various explosive mine obstacles and barriers ahead of its front on the basis that he will be able to reduce the rate of attack of the opposing side sharply on a certain line and, exploiting momentum, would commit the PTUR's. However, the tankers had their own calculations. They overcame the minefield in front of the "enemy" FEBA [forward edge of the battle area] without closing up the combat formation, which was ensured by the mine exploders which were on the tanks and by the creation of additional passages by the explosion method on the directions of attack. Pressing against the shell bursts of their artillery, the tanks advanced at about 200-300 meters behind the barrage. In turn, without dismounting the motorized rifle-men stayed on the BMP's a little closer to the tanks. The rate of attack was about 20 kilometers per hour. What was the estimate in this?

The crews of the tanks and the BMP's knew well that however effective the softening up of the defenders' FEBA by fire may be, some of the PTS will nevertheless survive and will open fire at the appropriate moment. But at just which moment? Of course, when the artillery barrage of the attackers falls back into the depth of the defense. But we have already noted that the tanks are moving at some 200-300 meters behind the barrage. How much time will the tankers require to cover this distance? Approximately one minute. And the surviving PTUR sections need at least 10-15 seconds to open fire. It turns out that the time of greatest threat for the tanks from the PTUR's of the first position of the "enemy" defense will last for less than a minute. The task is to neutralize the "peak" of the danger and reduce its consequences to a minimum. During these seconds, the tankers of the company bring the rate of fire to the greatest intensity. And this provides quite good results.

Sergeant Kravchuk's tank attacked in the center of the platoon combat formation. At the time when the gunner, Private First Class Lednev, was firing on a group of "enemy" infantry, a PTUR launcher suddenly appeared at a short distance. In literally two or three seconds the gunner fired on the target with an HE fragmentation shell.

"Stop!" experienced tankers say here. "Something is not right here." Three or four seconds are required just to load the weapon with a shell; then it is necessary to set the appropriate sight setting, aim, and only then press the button of the

electric trigger. In short, it is necessary to add at least about another five or six seconds.



However, there is no error: the round was actually fired in two or three seconds. Why did this become possible? First, the cannon was loaded ahead of time with an HE fragmentation shell on the basis that it was necessary to conduct fire namely against infantry targets rather than armored targets which are usually disposed in the depth of the defense. Second, the tank crews had established a simple regular law: at short ranges all sight scales correspond approximately to the same values. And therefore, the gunner did not have to reset the sight setting. Third, in order to forestall the "enemy" the gunner did not try to accomplish precise laying. He only accomplished rough laying and sent the round into the target.

But what if an armored target suddenly appeared instead of a PTUR, some tankers ask. In this case, the crew must fire the fragmentation shell, which was ready, at it and only then load with an armor-piercing shell. Does this mean that one shell was expended to no purpose? Yes, it is expended. But when it is necessary to choose between a vehicle and a shell, the latter must be sacrificed.

The excellent tank platoon under the command of Warrant Officer N. Ustimenko operated with initiative and decisively on a tactical exercise with live firing. In the course of a successful attack in the depth of the "enemy" defense it was on the company right flank when suddenly an orange and black column of dirt rose up in front of the subunit's combat formations literally at a distance of several dozen meters. In one instant, the explosion of a bangalore torpedo erected a serious barrier--a deep antitank ditch. The tanks stopped, continuing to fire from in place at the "enemy" personnel and weapons. A PTUR appeared on the right at the edge of the woods with the barn (see Figure 4). A critical situation was created. And then Warrant Officer Ustimenko made a bold decision. He ordered the right-flank tank which was commanded by Sergeant S. Vashchenko to advance somewhat ahead to lay down a smoke screen and, thereby, to cover from the flank the entire combat formation not only of the platoon, but also of the company. In turn, the subunit commander issued an order to the commander of the motorized rifle company advancing behind him to execute a covert maneuver with one of the platoons on BMP's and to strike the PTUR in the flank. The mission was accomplished successfully.

/As is evident from many examples, combating enemy PTS is becoming one of the most important missions of motorized riflemen and tankers. Consequently, the procedures and methods for the combat employment of tanks and BMP's require further creative development. And this requires commanders of crews, squads, and platoons--the immediate executors who employ the force of weapons against PTUR's in battle, to look even more persistently for ways to solve this important problem/.

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GROUND FORCES

TANK TACTICAL FIRING TRAINING DESCRIBED

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[Article by Sr Lt A. Gnatchenko, chief of tactical training field, Nth training center, Group of Soviet Forces in Germany: "Target Situation--In Readiness"]

[Text] The battle developed as the company commander had assumed. The tankers broke through the "enemy" FEBA [forward edge of the battle area] from the march and advanced swiftly toward a strong point in the depth of his defense.

The subunit commander correctly determined the limits of the strong point and decided to strike from the left flank. Maneuver was furthered by a depression on the ground which permitted falling on the "enemy" suddenly. However, the platoon which was ordered to execute the envelopment unexpectedly ran across the "enemy." It was necessary to look for a new solution for the tactical mission. And the commander found it.

The situation in which the tankers found themselves on the tactical exercise with live firing can completely arise in real combat. Therefore, it was planned ahead of time and supported materially--a reserve group of targets had been set up at the exit from the depression. On the eve of the exercise it still was not on the diagram of the assistant leader for the target situation. But we have established the procedure: before beginning to set up the tactical field, the diagram is refined on the ground.

We walked over the field and estimated where to place which targets. I see the left flank of the strong point is left uncovered. In actual battle, of course, such negligence is not committed by the enemy and he will prepare some surprise without fail. The assistant leader agreed with my reasoning.

A thorough estimate of the situation directly on the ground permits a better understanding of the exercise leader's intentions and the tactics of operations of the probable enemy and consideration of terrain relief and one's own capabilities. I will refer to an example which is connected with preparations for the exercise which I discussed above.

The leader considered that in the so-called motor building we have one winch with six cables. In other words, six targets will designate the counterattack. However, two mobile winches with four cables on each could be installed there in order to designate the counterattack with eight moving targets. This recommendation was accepted by the assistant leader for the target situation. The conditions for

the conduct of the tactical exercise approached actual combat actions even more.

But then, finally, it was precisely determined which targets should be located where. Operators--soldiers and sergeants--join in the work. Each one is responsible for the preparation of targets on specific positions. For example, Private First Class A. Dyatel is responsible for the positions from 600 to 1,500 meters and Private Ye. Sushilov--for positions from 2,100 to 2,800 meters. To bring, emplace, and connect the lifts and install the targets is their concern. Clearly, they do all this in accordance with diagrams of the target situation which I draw up myself. The diagram which is issued to the operator indicates on what line and what types of target units (light, medium, or heavy) should be placed in the field. In this regard, the distance between the targets frontally and in depth is determined with an accuracy down to one meter. Each operator reports to me personally about the work accomplished.

We keep all our equipment in special storerooms. The operator is responsible for a certain number of target units. He services the lifts after the exercises and checks them prior to installation. If he cannot repair something independently, he turns to the shop for assistance. As a result, it never happens that at a heated moment the necessary quantity of lifts or motor winches is not at hand.

A high level of technical training of the operators contributes to the maintenance of the equipment in good working order. The soldiers and sergeants master the difficult equipment without special difficulties: they all have a secondary education, and many have a secondary special education. Planned training is also directed toward improving the technical ability of the operators. At the beginning of each training period with the men, a 10-day assembly is conducted at which the specialists study the equipment entrusted to them. Once a week, as called for by the program for combat training, lessons on the operation, servicing, and storage of range equipment are organized with the operators and motor personnel. The lessons are conducted by experienced specialists Major A. Kubasov, Warrant Officers [praporshchik] Ye. Strilets and Ye. Pashchenko, and others.

The best trained soldiers render great assistance to their comrades. It has become a rule with us: a young specialist works alongside an experienced specialist. Each one strives to master his duties as quickly as possible and to learn to service the sections of the tactical field independently. High indices were attained, for example, by the young soldier A. Gal'kevich who was helped by Private First Class A. Dyatel who masters the specialty of operator to perfection. In a short time, Gal'kevich considerably expanded his technical horizon and quickly learned to determine and eliminate malfunctions on the target field.

The operators and motor personnel constantly study the reasons for possible malfunctions in the field equipment. Each one has a notebook where methods for determining and eliminating typical malfunctions are recorded.

In order to bring the situation on exercises closer to conditions of actual combat, we often employ various means of simulation--light, sound, and smoke. When we do this ourselves, everything usually proceeds normally. But specially appointed simulation teams sometimes do not coordinate their actions with us and permit

failures: pull-type simulation means are installed incorrectly, the cord is fastened to the upper edge of the target, or a very short cord is used. As a result of this, either the target is not raised or it is detonated itself. And the use of electric igniters is frequently the reason for short circuits. Because of these failures, the exercise leader's intentions are frustrated and the operators are forced to accomplish additional work.

It is even worse when the trainees, in the pursuit of a high grade, fire at close ranges and the combat vehicles ride up on the equipment. This causes great economic loss--target units and cables which cost a lot of money are put out of operation. This should be remembered by all those who see the field through the backsight notches and through the viewing instruments. Then the targets will rise and fall in time. And the operators and motor personnel will always prepare the tactical field in good time and with good quality.

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GROUND FORCES

T-72 TANK: OPERATIONAL CHARACTERISTICS DESCRIBED

Moscow TEKHNIIKA I VOORUZHENIYE in Russian No 7, Jul 81 (signed to press 15 Jun 81)
pp 24-25

[Article by Engineer-Colonel S. Ponomarev]

[Text] Some of the design features that make the T-72 tank different from other models impart unique features to its operation.

The vehicle has a multifuel V-46 engine, which is a modification of the V-55 engine and which is distinguished by higher power owing to the addition of a centrifugal supercharger and an NK-12 fuel pump. The fuel feed cycle is adjusted for different forms of fuel with the help of a three-position rack stop by rotation of a knob with three marks: Д--diesel fuel, К--kerosene, Б--gasoline. If a mixed fuel is used, the knob is set at the position corresponding to the heaviest fuel.

When using gasoline in summer, do not connect and transfer the contents of the spare fuel tanks to the fuel supply system (this is a fire safety measure). Before each time the engine is started, fuel must be pumped through the fuel feed system for 5 minutes, and at surrounding air temperatures below 20°C the engine should be warmed with a heater. In all cases the engine may be started only by the combined method (with the starter and compressed air). During the time that the engine is working, the BTsN-1 pump must be constantly on, and the air bleed valve should be closed. After the engine stops, this pump should be turned off immediately (recall that fuel can be pumped out of the vehicle with the BTsN-1 pump).

Filling fuel tanks with gasoline by means of an MZA-3 small fueling unit present in the vehicle's accessories and parts kit is categorically prohibited.

The fuel filter maintenance period is significantly longer for the T-72 tank. The rough-cleaning fuel filter and the fine-cleaning filter need not be changed until after 6,500-7,000 km of vehicle running distance, but not after more than 300 and 500 hours of engine operation respectively (filter elements of the rough-cleaning filter are replaced at this time as well).

The air cleaner is serviced only when it becomes clogged with dust. When the engine is working, the SDU-1A-0.12 warning system monitors the maximum resistance (rarefaction) in the head of the air cleaner, which increases as more dust gets into the cleaner cartridges. At a rarefaction level of 1,200±60 mm H₂O and an engine crankshaft rpm of 2,000, the lamp on the driver-mechanic's monitoring

instrument panel turns on, signaling the need for servicing the air cleaner. After this lamp turns on, the permissible time for movement of the tank in moderately dusty air is 5 hours, while in the presence of very dusty air the limit is 2 hours. The air cleaner is subjected to full maintenance after 6,500-7,000 km of vehicle running distance, with the help of either special stands used to rinse and oil the cartridges, or with the tank's own resources.

The engine is filled with M-16IKhP-3 oil, or with MT-16_p oil to which 4.5 percent MNIIP-22K additive and 0.002 percent PMS-200A antifoaming additive had been added. The minimum permissible quantity of oil in the engine lubricating system is 20 liters, the recommended oil temperature is 70-100°C, and the maximum permissible temperature is 115°C (120°C at ambient air temperatures above 35°C). When the engine is operating in normal temperature conditions the oil pressure in the lubricating system should be 5-10 kg/cm². But if the oil temperature drops below 75°C, the vehicle's pressure gauge may read 12 kg/cm². After 300 hours of engine operation, oil pressure in the lubricating system may be reduced to 4 kg/cm².

Technical maintenance of the engine's lubricating system basically involves servicing the filters and replacing oil. The MTs-1 centrifugal filter must be rinsed out in accordance with TO [technical maintenance routine] No 1. When the dust content of the air is high, the MTs-1 is rinsed at the time that the air cleaner is serviced. The MA^F filter is cleaned at the time of TO No 2 but not less than every 150 hours of engine operating time—that is, practically the same as with a T-55 tank. Oil is changed in the system after 6,500-7,000 km of tank running distance, but not less than after 350 hours of engine operation.

The recommended water temperature of an engine running on diesel fuels and kerosene is 70-100°C, while with gasoline it is 80-100°. The maximum permissible temperature is 115°C. If the system is filled with low-freezing-point coolant, the temperatures indicated above are reduced correspondingly to 70-95, 80-95, and 105°C. If the coolant's temperature rises to maximum permissible (in this case the warning lamp to the right of the driver-mechanic's viewing instrument turns on), the load on the engine must be reduced.

Before the engine is stopped, the coolant temperature must not be higher than 90°C for an engine running on diesel fuels and kerosene, and 80°C for gasoline.

The cooling system's centrifugal fan, the drive system of which has two stages, is usually run at its lowest stage. It is disconnected during inspections and adjustments made in the power compartment, so as to ensure the safety of the working personnel. For this purpose the fan's drive lever is set in neutral. A warning lamp reading "Fan" or "Coolant" turns on when the fan is disconnected. The fan is connected at its higher stage when the ambient air temperature is 25°C and higher, which allows the engine to operate for a long period of time at maximum power without overheating. Technical maintenance of units in the running gear basically involves adding more lubricant to the bearings of the idler wheels, the road wheels, and the needle bearings of the track wheel arm bushings (at the time of TO No 2). The reliability of running gear units is higher when low-melting point YanZ-2 lubricant is used.

As wear of teeth on the rims of the drive wheels increases (when the distance from the outer diameter to the edge of the tooth notch attains 4-5 mm, and before the ridges of the tracks begin to touch the hub of the drive wheel), the drive wheels should be remounted from one side of the vehicle to the other. Practice shows that this operation should be performed after 3,800-4,000 km of running distance, during routine daily maintenance of the tank.

The drive systems controlling the tank's transmission need not be adjusted frequently. The adjustment is usually checked at the time of TO No 2. Experience also shows that during the vehicle's operation between repairs, there is no need to adjust, for example, the clutch drive, the gear shift, and other control instruments. At the time of transmission maintenance, the technician should also service the filters, replace the oil in the hydraulic steering system (TO No 2), and add lubricant to the final drive planet drive carrier (TO No 1) and fan clutch bearings (TO No 2).

When the tank's weapon is fired, the filter-ventilation unit (FVU), which is a component of the collective crew protection system, is used to ventilate the fighting compartment. Excess air pressure (a pressure head) within the tank, also created with the help of the FVU, keeps powder gases from penetrating from the combustion chamber into the tank interior when the gun's wedge-type breech-block is open. The usual causes of a reduction in excess air pressure in the fighting compartment are usually loose bolts or damaged seals in the power plant's bulkhead, as well as open valves or hatches on this bulkhead. Thus if a hatch is opened to permit water to flow across, a negative rather than positive pressure of up to 10 mm H₂O is created in the fighting compartment. It may double if the cover of the tank commander's hatch is not closed tightly or when some bulkhead bolts are missing. As a result powder gases begin to be sucked into the tank not only from extracted shell cases but also from the bore of the gun barrel.

Moreover positive pressure may be reduced owing to clogging of the filter-absorber with dust.

Tanks having faults in the ventilation system or a pressure head of less than 60 mm H₂O (when the FVU is operating in ventilation mode) (this figure is a rather objective characteristic of the airtightness of the fighting compartment) should not be allowed to use their organic weapons.

A tank is usually placed in motion in second gear on dry hard ground, and in first gear on sand, in deep snow, and in mud. It may be started moving uphill only in first gear and in reverse, since it is at these gears that the brake drive is linked with the tank controls. Uphill movement should be started as follows: Make sure that the brake pedal is depressed and locked; depress the clutch pedal and engage first gear; shift both control levers all the way inward, release the clutch pedal and brake pedal, and only after this, quickly release the control levers one at a time. This sequence must not be varied.

It should be considered that the gears of a T-72 tank are engaged only when the clutch pedal is released. Shifting of the selector lever only makes the gears ready for engagement. The actual process of gear engagement takes a certain amount of time (0.3-1 second) after the clutch pedal is released. This can be explained by gradual filling of the system with oil. Moreover the faster the pedal is

released, the longer is the delay. When the gears are engaged slowly (smoothly), there is practically no delay. A similar but shorter delay (0.1-0.4 seconds) occurs when the tank is turned.

The transmission design allows for shifting of the selector lever to the required position without depressing the clutch pedal, but this should not be done without extreme necessity, since the involved clutches and gearbox brakes experience an overload. The tank might also begin moving unexpectedly immediately after the selector lever is shifted.

It should also be considered that the required gear may be engaged at any engine crankshaft rpm.

The transmission drive of the tank permits switching to low gear by simultaneous shifting of the control levers to their first position. However, use of this procedure is not recommended either: It is much easier to switch gears with the selector lever, and the loads imposed on the transmission would be lower.

As a rule the mountain brake pedal is used to brake tanks in all gears and while standing. The tank may be braked with the control levers only in first gear, reverse, and when the selector lever is in neutral. The speed of a moving vehicle can be reduced by using its light braking system. This makes control easier, it precludes the need for making frequent use of the brake drive pedal, reduces the time required to switch gears from highest to lowest, and makes it possible to approach an obstacle at higher speed.

Dependable operation of the transmission and the control drives can be ensured by keeping the oil pressure stable at not less than 2 kg/cm^2 . It should be remembered that in winter, some of the oil in the transmission's hydraulic drive may accumulate in the final drive housings and freeze while the vehicle is standing. This is why pumping hot oil through twice (with a 5-minute interval between pump operations) is mandatory before stopping the engine in winter. After this, the quantity of oil in the transmission tank must be checked (it should be not less than 42 liters). If this pumping operation is not complete enough or if the oil used is not warm enough, an oil film remains on the transmission parts (friction discs may stick together), and later on it is harder for the parts to move when the engine is started up. However, when the oil is heated to 60°C before pumping, subsequent starting of the engine offers practically no difficulties. When a tank is prepared for storage, several operations in addition to the usual ones must be performed.

Thus the rough-cleaning and fine oil filters and the filter of the oil pump are rinsed when fuel and oil are changed. When the spare fuel tanks are connected to the engine fuel feed system, the left tank should contain 30-40 liters less than its capacity when the tank is placed in storage. If the spare tanks are disconnected, however, the fifth external fuel tank should contain 20-25 liters less than its capacity. The engine cooling system of a tank placed in storage must be filled with low-freezing-point coolant. Recall that fuel and oil must be clean, and they should not contain any water or mechanical impurities. Water getting into a fuel system may cause corrosion of parts in the fuel system, and failure of the fuel gauge, while in winter it may cause formation of ice plugs, especially in the BTsN-1 pump's intake filter.

When replacing oil in the power transmission and in the hydraulic steering system, take special care to see that sand, dust, water, and other impurities do not get into the oil, and comply with the specific instructions on the sequence to be followed in the operations. This requirement is explained by the high manufacturing precision of the hydraulic units, and by their great sensitivity to contaminants.

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AIR DEFENSE FORCES

AIR DEFENSE FORCES DAY COMMENTS

Col Gen Bochkov's Comments

Moscow SOTSIALISTICHESKAYA INDUSTRIYA in Russian 11 Apr 81 p 3

[Commentary by Col Gen Avn B. Bochkov, deputy commander of Air Defense Forces: "Those Who Guard the Sky"]

[Text] Tomorrow the Soviet people and their valiant fighting men will festively celebrate Air Defense Forces Day. This year, the Soviet people and the fighting men of the armed forces are greeting this holiday amidst the high political and labor activity evoked by the work of the 26th party congress. The air defense fighting men have welcomed the congress' decisions -- which were aimed at a further build-up in the USSR's economic potential, at improving the people's well-being, and at maintaining the Soviet state's defensive might at a high level-- as a militant program for action.

On this important day, our people honor those who stand guard over Soviet skies, defending the peaceful work of the people and the security of the motherland, and recognize the air defense troops for their great services during the years of the Great Patriotic War and during their performance of important and complex tasks during peacetime. Air Defense Forces Day is being observed as a nation-wide review of the achievements in the creation and development of an effective air defense for the USSR, and of the successes of the air defense artillery fighting men, missilemen, interceptor pilots, radarmen, and all personnel as well as those of the scientists, designers and workers in the defense industry.

Soviet fighting men, just as all citizens of our country heartily and unanimously approve the domestic and foreign policy of the party and government and angrily condemn the actions of the new U.S. administration, which are imbued with the spirit of the "cold war" and which are hostile to the interests of peace, and the adventurist course of the Beijing leadership.

In the central committee's report to the 26th party congress, Comrade L. I. Brezhnev, the general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, pointed out that under modern conditions the aggressiveness of the policy of imperialism, especially that of American imperialism, has grown sharply. The enemy's of relaxation, of

arms limitations, and of the improvement of relations with the Soviet Union and the other socialist countries have noticeably increased their activities. The Washington strategists clearly would like to drag dozens of other states into their military preparations and enmesh the world in a web of bases, airfields and weapons depots.

Taking this into consideration, the Communist Party and the Soviet government are continuously concerned about strengthening the country's defensive capabilities and increasing the combat power of all branches of the armed forces.

The Communist Party and the Soviet government have imposed on air defense fighting men a task of national importance — the performance of a continuous combat watch over the defense of our motherland's aerial frontiers. This is a critical branch of service in peacetime. Here, everything is just as it is in an actual combat situation. There are no excuses, no simplifications. The performance of a combat watch is rightfully the performance of a combat mission.

Air defense troops — these are troops constantly ready to give a decisive rebuff to an enemy. They are capable of engaging in combat quickly and repulsing the attack of an air enemy. The air defense forces have available all that is necessary to successfully perform the tasks placed on them.

The defenders of the homeland's skies have the latest radar equipment; powerful air defense missile complexes; all-weather, supersonic, missile-carrying fighter interceptors; automated control systems; electronic computers; rapid communication systems; and other modern equipment which was created based on the modern achievements of scientific and design thought. This permits the Air Defense Forces to detect and destroy targets at different altitudes, under difficult meteorological conditions, when there are heavy enemy radar countermeasures, and on the near and far approaches to the defended installations.

The air defense missile troops are armed with various missile complexes having high capabilities to destroy any air attack system throughout the spectrum of flight altitudes and speeds regardless of weather conditions and time of day. The fighter aviation of air defense forces is armed with all-weather, supersonic, missile-carrying aircraft which have powerful weapons and great capabilities to intercept enemy aircraft throughout a wide altitude spectrum, under any weather conditions, day and night. The radar troops are equipped with modern radar sets which permit them to detect air attack systems at large distances and throughout the altitude spectrum, determine their exact coordinates, and ensure target acquisition by the air defense missile troops and the guidance of fighters to the targets at any time of year and day regardless of weather conditions and different types of jamming.

A very important feature of the Air Defense Forces is the non-stop improvement of the combat characteristics of their weapons and combat equipment, and the widespread introduction of automated systems into the processes for controlling units and subunits during combat. All this has been called upon to raise the combat capabilities of the troops to a new level and to ensure the waging of an effective struggle against any enemy air attack system.

However, weapons and equipment do not by themselves determine the success of a battle. People—our illustrious Soviet fighting men who possess high moral, political and military qualities, who are indoctrinated in the ideas of Marxism-Leninism, and who are capable of using the combat qualities of weapons and combat equipment at full power — forge victory. Faithful to their military oath, the fighting men of the Air Defense Forces, just as the fighting men in the other branches of the Soviet armed forces, have celebrated the 26th CPSU Congress with high indicators in combat and political training. Many units sent reports to the congress in which they reported on their successes in military work and on their performance of the obligations which had been adopted and in which they assured the party that they would do everything necessary to carry out honorably the historic decisions of the congress and the combat missions assigned to them.

Air defense fighting men are filled with the determination to take during the year of the 26th CPSU Congress a new large step forward in military perfection, to vigilantly watch out for the intrigues of the enemies of peace, to strengthen military readiness, and perform with honor the honorable duty to defend Soviet skies reliably.

The air defense artillerymen, missilemen, fliers, radar operators, signalmen, and the fighting men with other specialties perform their combat watch day and night, in heat and severe cold. The all-seeing beams of the radars touch each meter of our country's aerial border. Missiles are thick on the launch mounts, ready to stop the flight of any uninvited guest. Fighter interceptors stand watch at airfields, ready to take off.

Air defense fighting men are filled with the determination to be always combat ready and to defend the aerial frontiers of the country of the Soviets steadfastly and courageously as is required by the decisions of the 26th CPSU Congress.

Col Gen Konstantinov's Comment

Moscow MOSKOVSKAYA PRAVDA (in Russian 11 Apr 81 p 2

[Commentary by Col Gen Avn A. U. Konstantinov, commander of the Order of Lenin Moscow Air Defense District and Hero of the Soviet Union: "We Are Defending the Sky"]

[Text] The Soviet people and their armed forces are celebrating Air Defense Forces Day. Today's holiday is taking place amidst the enormous political enthusiasm evoked by the historic decisions of our native Communist Party's 26th congress. The personnel of the Order of Lenin Moscow Air Defense District heartily and unanimously approve and support the domestic and foreign policy of the party and government and are filled with a determination to carry out the tasks proposed by Comrade L. I. Brezhnev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet, in the accountability report to congress.

All the thoughts of the district's fighting men have been directed toward the achievement of further successes in the improvement of combat and political

training and towards the effective and qualitative solution of all the tasks connected with ensuring the inviolability of the aerial frontiers of the hero-city of Moscow. Inspired by the high military work rating given by the 26th party congress to the armed defenders of the motherland, the missilemen, fliers, radar operators, signalmen, and the fighting men with other specialties are vigilantly performing a tireless combat watch. The defenders of the aerial frontiers are equipped with combat equipment in which the modern achievements of scientific and design thought have been used. It permits different methods and ways for waging a battle to repulse a surprise attack by any aggressor to be used with high effectiveness. Moscow's air defense units and subunits have powerful modern air defense missile complexes which have a high hit accuracy. Our aviators have at their disposal all-weather, supersonic fighter interceptors. The radar troops are equipped with modern radar equipment capable of detecting the probable enemy's aerial attack systems at great ranges throughout the entire altitude spectrum. Automated control systems and electronic computers have been very widely adopted.

The technical equipping of the district's forces is only one facet which characterizes their combat power. A complete performance of the complex tasks facing us is assured by the personnel's unimpeachable training; by their high moral, political, psychological and combat qualities; and by excellent discipline and organization. This is why the splendid fighting men, who are infinitely devoted to the party, government and people, who possess awesome weapons, and who are prepared to perform their constitutional duty to the end, have been and remain our main invincible strength.

The birth of the air defense troops and their formation is inseparably linked with the name of Vladimir Il'ich Lenin. The iron antiaircraft battalion, which first opened the combat record of the air space defenders by shooting down a White Guard airplane in the vicinity of Krasnoye Selo near Petrograd on 30 October 1917, was created by the workers of the Putilovskiy (now the Kirovskiy) Plant on V. I. Lenin's personal instructions.

During the years of the Civil War, the AD fighting men inserted quite a few pages in the chronicle of the Soviet Republic's defenders. The second battery of the Putilovskiy antiaircraft battalion especially distinguished itself during the battles. It destroyed eight English airplanes and a lot of other combat equipment and men of the White Guards and the interventionists with the fire of its guns and machineguns. This battery was converted into an independent air defense artillery battalion at the end of the battles on the civil war fronts, and then into an air defense artillery regiment. It arrived in Moscow during the summer of 1939 and began to defend its air space.

During the years of the Great Patriotic War, the regiment's personnel displayed high courage and steadfastness during the battles for our native capital, destroying 38 fascist aircraft. Today, just as always, the Guards Air Defense Missile Putilovskiy-Kirovskiy, Order of Lenin, AD Regiment stands among the right-flank ones in the defense of the capital's skies.

During the war years, all told 1305 fascist airplanes and a large amount of other enemy combat equipment and men were destroyed by the air defense systems when

repulsing enemy air attacks on Moscow. The fighter pilots served as models of courage and heroism during the battle for the capital. It was here that many aviation regiments for the first time earned the high honor of being called "guards", and that the high title of "Hero of the Soviet Union" was awarded to 22 pilots who fought in Moscow's skies. The air defense artillerymen and all AD fighting men were a match for them in fighting the hated enemy.

Constant readiness to defend the motherland to the last breath and to the last drop of blood and filial devotion to the socialist homeland -- today's defenders of Moscow's aerial frontiers are taking care of and multiplying these outstanding qualities of the front-line heroes. Comrade L. I. Brezhnev pointed out during the 26th CPSU Congress: "Now, the sons and grandsons of the heroes of the Great Patriotic War are standing in the ranks of the motherland's defenders. They have not undergone the severe tests which fell to the lot of their fathers and grandfathers. However, they are faithful to the heroic traditions of our army and our people".

The fighting missilemen -- the initiators of the socialist competition among the district's forces during the present training year -- of the excellent unit where officer B. Shorenko serves constantly display strong ideological training, excellent technical training, and firm skills in controlling the awesome equipment under the complicated conditions of modern combat. The fighter pilots of the progressive squadron, which Lt Col V. Akinin-- who has been awarded the decoration "For Service to the Motherland in the USSR Armed Forces" thirdclass-- commands, intercept all training targets on the far approaches. The personnel of the radar subunit which Lt Col P. Suzdalev -- bearer of the Red Star and "For Service to the Motherland in the USSR Armed Forces" thirdclass decorations-- heads provides timely and accurate radar information on the air situation to missilemen and pilots.

The missilemen of the regiment, where officer Yu. Shcherbakov serves, are achieving high successes in combat and political training. The progressive collective has already been awarded the temporary Red Banner of the Moscow city CPSU committee and Moscow Soviet for several years in a row.

Everywhere, communists are walking in front on the most difficult, complicated and critical avenues of training and service. For them, the implementing of party and government policy means to improve the combat power of troop collectives tirelessly from day- to-day, to rally the men more closely around the native communist party, to indoctrinate the people in the spirit of Marxism-Leninism and infinite devotion to the motherland.

Quite a bit of credit is due to the Moscow city and oblast party organizations for the achievement of all our successes. The district's fighting men continuously feel their concern and attention. The closest ties have existed for many years between the capital's enterprises and organizations and the district's military units. An old friendship links the districts fighting men with the collectives of the plants imeni Vladimir Il'ich, "Krasnyy Proletariy" and "Dinamo".

In fully and completely approving and unanimously supporting the political line and practical work of the party's Central Committee headed by that outstanding state figure of the times and tireless fighter for peace, Comrade Leonid Il'ich Brezhnev, the fighting men of the capital's air defense district are firmly resolved to carry out with honor the tasks, assigned to the USSR armed forces by the 26th CPSU Congress.

Col Gen Moskvitelev's Comment

Riga SOVETSKAYA LATVIYA in Russian 12 Apr 81 p 2

[Commentary by Col Gen Avn N. Moskvitelev: "A Reliable Guard of the Aerial Frontiers"]

[Text] Soviet communists at their highest forum -- the 26th CPSU Congress -- announced that they now intend to concentrate all their efforts on two interconnected avenues: one -- communist creation, the other -- the strengthening of peace. By unanimously approving the Communist Party's domestic and foreign policy, the fighting men of the USSR armed forces-- just as all Soviet people -- are reliably ensuring the peaceful work of the Soviet people and are worthily defending socialism's accomplishments and the cause of peace on earth. L. I. Brezhnev said at the 26th CPSU Congress: "... Every time that the interests of the country's security and the defense of peace require it, when it is necessary to help the victims of aggression, the Soviet fighting man appears before the world as an unselfish and courageous patriot and internationalist ready to overcome any difficulty."

The Air Defense Forces, whose traditional holiday-- Air Defense Forces Day -- is celebrated on 12 April, are in the single combat formation of the USSR armed forces. This holiday was established to mark the services of this branch of service during the last war and during the performance of especially important state tasks in peacetime. The air defense fighting men are called the guards of the Soviet skies. Even during peacetime, they perform a combat mission -- they are constantly on watch over the defense of the motherland's aerial frontiers.

The personnel of the Air Defense Forces take into consideration the sharp aggravation of the present international situation which has been caused by imperialism's aggressive circles, especially those of the United States and NATO, and by their Chinese accomplices; and clearly understand the real danger of new wars and a surprise attack by aggressors on the Soviet Union and the other countries of the socialist commonwealth. In their military preparations, the imperialists attach special importance to the build-up of aerial attack systems, and proclaim various military-political doctrines involving the concepts of "limited nuclear war" and "a nuclear first strike" against the USSR and the other socialist states. Therefore, the demands, placed on air defense combat readiness, are growing non-stop.

Considering the capabilities of the aerial attack systems of the more developed capitalist countries, the necessary steps to create new AD systems and to improve

and perfect all its systems have been taken in the Soviet Union during the postwar decades. The AD forces are now equipped with everything necessary to successfully solve the tasks of timely detection of an air attack and the destruction of existing and prospective targets at various altitudes, in bad weather, under enemy radio and electronic countermeasures, and on the far approaches to the defended installations.

The air defense missile forces are the basis of the Air Defense Forces' fire power. They have at their disposal the capability to destroy aerial targets in a wide spectrum of altitudes and speeds. Fighter aviation occupies an important place in the country's air defenses. It is the most maneuverable branch of service and is capable of performing combat missions to intercept the aerial enemy on the far approaches to defended installations. The AD force are equipped with various radio-electronic equipment, automated control systems, and rapid communication systems.

However, equipment and weapons by themselves do not determine all the power of the army and navy. In the final analysis, the decisive word belongs to the people in whose hands the combat equipment and weapons are located. Today's generation of defenders of the Soviet skies is made up of the sons and grandsons of the heroes of the Great Patriotic War of the Soviet people against fascist Germany. They are proud of, sacredly revere, carefully preserve, and multiply the glorious combat traditions of the AD troops. The heroic deeds of the frontline soldiers serve as a shining example for the soldiers and officers. They are arming themselves with the best that was forged in the fire of battle. Let us remember: despite the fact that Hitlerite Germany threw numerous air forces against the country of the soviets, it did not manage to paralyze the operation of railroad transport and shipping and to disrupt the supplying of the front with equipment, ammunition and food. The AD forces protected the country's most important political, administrative and economic centers from the air and ensured their uninterrupted operation. They did not allow the enemy to destroy the capital. The defense of Moscow was itself a classic example of air defense. It is necessary to say that not a single capital of the capitalist countries had such a powerful air defense during the entire period of the Second World War as Moscow did.

Just as during the war years, Soviet fighting men are not sparing any effort or work to master military skills thoroughly. Intense combat training is taking place in the units and subunits of the AD forces, personnel are improving their skill, they are successfully mastering complicated combat equipment, and they are improving discipline and organization. A great deal of work is being done to form a Marxist-Leninist world outlook, an active and vital position, and high moral-political and combat qualities in all categories of personnel.

As L. I. Brezhnev noted during the 26th CPSU Congress, in general, the strong fusion of high technology, military skill and an unconquerable moral spirit--such is the combat potential of the Soviet armed forces. This pertains completely to the Air Defense Forces also.

By strengthening its defenses, the Soviet Union remains faithful to the policy of peace. Its peaceloving initiatives which were put forward at the 26th CPSU Congress, embrace a wide circle of questions. They touch upon nuclear missile weapons and conventional types of weapons, the ground forces and naval and air forces. The matter now depends on the United States and its allies in NATO. However, as is clear from reports in the foreign press, realism is still not observed in the policies of these states' leading circles.

The ratification and entering into effect of the treaty on limiting strategic offensive weapons (SALT-2) were frozen even during the Carter administration. The White House is now standing on the same position. As before, the SALT process and discussions to limit nuclear weapons in Europe are frozen. An undermining of the 1972 Soviet-American treaty to limit antiballistic missile systems and the 1974 protocol to this treaty is taking place. You see, these agreements have a permanent nature. It is clear that the Pentagon, the military-industrial complex, and their henchmen in the government are trying to untie their hands in this sector of armaments also. The purpose? The arms race and the material preparations for a nuclear world war.

The defense of socialism is an international matter. The troops of the country's air defense forces, just as all the USSR armed forces, are vigilantly watching out for the intrigues of the imperialists and are ready to rebuff an aggressor at any moment along with the fighting men in the armies of the socialist states.

Maj Gen Mikhaylov's Comment

Moscow SOVETSKIY PATRIOT in Russian 12 Apr 81 p 2

[Commentary by Maj Gen Avn V. Mikhaylov, deputy chief of the Air Defense Forces' Political Directorate: "In Defense of the Aerial Borders."

[Text] The combat crews are set in an efficient formation. The stern words of the order ring out: "Begin a combat watch for the defense of the aerial borders of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics!" The missilemen, aviators, radarmen, and signalmen begin the combat watch to the sounds of a solemn march.

The establishment of Air Defense Forces Day was a recognition of the services of the Air Defense Forces during the years of the Great Patriotic War and during their performance of especially important tasks in peacetime.

This year, the scouts of the motherland's skies are celebrating their traditional holiday amidst the enormous political and work enthusiasm evoked by the decisions of the 26th CPSU Congress. Air defense fighting men, just as all Soviet people, have welcomed with all their heart the majestic program for the country's economic and social development which was outlined by the congress of the Leninist party; and they unanimously approve the party's domestic and foreign policy and the work of the CPSU Central Committee and its Politburo headed by Comrade L. I. Brezhnev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee.

The guardians of the homeland's skies are deeply aware of the role and importance of their military work in solving the tasks of communist construction and of their personal responsibility for the motherland's security. They are tenaciously mastering complicated combat equipment and weapons, learning to use them skilfully, and are always ready to come to the defense of the beloved homeland.

The glorious history of our Air Defense Forces is inseparably linked with the name of V.I. Lenin and the work of the Communist Party. Soon after the victory of the Great October Socialist Revolution, the workers of the Putilovskiy Plant set up an armored train, armed with guns adapted to fire at aircraft, on Vladimir Il'ich's personal instructions. The crew of this armored train was the first air defense subunit in the Red Army. It opened its combat accounts on 3 March 1918 when it destroyed two German airplanes near the station of Toroshino in the vicinity of Pskov.

For combat services to the Soviet republic, two antiaircraft batteries and an aviation fighter battalion were awarded VTIK [All-Russian Central Executive Committee] Honorary Revolutionary Red Banners. Hundreds of fighting men and commanders were singled out with government awards. A total of 16 brave pilots were twice awarded the Order of the Red Banner.

Taking into consideration the continuous military threat from international imperialism, the Communist Party and the Soviet government were tirelessly concerned during the years of peaceful construction with strengthening the country's defensive capabilities and with defending it reliably from the air.

The new generation of air defense fighting men, who have adopted the combat experience and best traditions of the war, tenaciously studied the equipment and weapons and perfected their combat skill. This helped the defenders of the Soviet skies to perform their sacred duty to the motherland honorably during the years of the Great Patriotic War.

The units and large units of the air defense border zones were among the first to engage in mortal combat with the enemy. On 22 June 1941, pilot I. Kalabushkin shot down five fascist airplanes. During the first day of the war, the pilots of the 123d Fighter Regiment destroyed 30 enemy airplanes on the approaches to Brest alone. Here, Lt P. Ryabtsev, a deputy squadron commander, performed one of the first ramming strikes in the history of the Great Patriotic War in front of the eyes of the fortress' heroic defenders.

The battle for Moscow was a severe test for the Air Defense Forces. From July 1941 to January 1942, they repulsed 122 attacks on our motherland's capital in which almost 8,000 fascist airplanes took part. More than 1,300 enemy machines were shot down in the skies of Moscow.

The air defense fighting men skilfully and courageously defended Leningrad, Kiev, Odessa, Novorossiysk, and other cities from fascist air attacks; and protected troop groupings at Stalingrad and Kursk, during the battles for the Dnepr and Caucasus, during the decisive battles for Berlin, and during the defeat of militaristic Japan.

During the war years, the air defense fighting men destroyed more than 7000 airplanes, more than a thousand tanks and armored vehicles, about 1500 guns and mortars, and a great deal of enemy combat equipment and men.

The motherland rates the military exploits of the air defense fighting men, commanders and political workers highly. Three large units and 26 units of the Air Defense Forces became guards units; many corps, divisions and units received honorary titles and were awarded USSR decorations. The exploits of more than 80,000 soldiers, sergeants and officers were singled out with high awards. The title of "Hero of the Soviet Union" was awarded to 92 of the defenders of the homeland's skies.

The experience of the Great Patriotic War teaches the Soviet people and their armed defenders wholehearted love for the motherland, high vigilance, and day-to-day readiness to rebuff an enemy.

In today's complicated international situation where the forces of imperialist aggression and reaction are becoming more active, our party and government are doing everything to defend and strengthen peace, avert a new world war, and reliably assure conditions for the constructive work of the Soviet people.

The successes in the development of the country's economy and rapid scientific and technological progress have permitted fundamental qualitative changes for the better to be carried out in all areas of military affairs and the Soviet armed forces to be equipped with modern nuclear missile weapons and aviation, naval, armored, artillery and other combat equipment.

The Air Defense Forces have also been lifted to a qualitatively new level. They now have at their disposal modern air defense missile complexes; all-weather supersonic, missile-carrying fighter interceptors; powerful radar sets; automated control systems; and rapid communications systems. The high technical equipping and the complexity of the tasks being solved by the Air Defense Forces impose increased demands on the general educational and technical training of the men and on their moral, political and combat qualities. Today, educated and politically erudite youth are arriving in our forces. More than 70 percent of the inductees have a higher or secondary education. This permits them to master the combat equipment and weapons successfully in a short time and allows them to keep them in constant combat readiness.

Those who completed a DOSAAF school before they were called to service, enter into the rhythm of army life and master a military specialty more rapidly and better. In the Air Defense Forces, quite a few flying club graduates have become pilots with high qualifications. Among them are Col V. Lebedev, an honored USSR pilot and sniper rated; and Majors V. Popov, V. Serdyuk, Yu. Fedorov, and S. Yunusov--pilots first class. They have mastered aviation equipment to perfection, perform combat watch vigilantly, and train and indoctrinate flying personnel skilfully. Sergeant S. Kvasov and Privates A. Prokhorov, S. Kolesnik and V. Sukhov--alumni of the defense society--are among the excellent men in combat and political training.

The ties between the Air Defense Forces and the defense society (especially DOSAAF's training organizations) are strengthened and enlarged from year to year. Commanders, political workers, excellent personnel in training, and masters of military affairs help them to hold classes, demonstrate the ways to work on combat equipment to the DOSAAF school students, and tell the pre-inductees about service in the army and navy.

In their turn, the young DOSAAF members-- the pupils in schools and professional technical schools and the inductees -- visit military units and subunits; become directly acquainted with the training, service and life of the men and with the museums and rooms of combat glory; and take part in rifle and sports contests. All this enriches the youth and helps them to prepare actively for service in the USSR armed forces.

The defenders of the motherland's skies celebrated the 26th party congress with fitting military deeds. During the pre-congress socialist competition, every third one of them achieved the title of "excellent soldier in combat and political training." Its initiators -- the fighting men of the air defense missile regiment which Colonel V. Parshikov commands -- are moving in the vanguard of the competition under the slogan "For High Military Readiness and Firm Military Order!". The missilemen sacredly revere the traditions of their veteran fellow soldiers who destroyed 65 enemy airplanes during the years of the Great Patriotic War. The fighting men of this regiment demonstrate excellent combat training during tactical exercises.

On their holiday, the air defense fighting men again and again look at the Leninist party. In its leadership, they see the inexhaustible source of the Soviet state's power and of the invincibility of its armed forces. Proud of the party's and people's trust and armed with the decisions of the 26th CPSU Congress, the guardians of the aerial frontiers are filled with the desire to implement the party's plans and to be dependable defenders of the socialist motherland's skies from now on.

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MILITARY SCHOOLS AND ACADEMIES

WARRANT OFFICER SCHOOL DESCRIBED

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 22 Apr 81 p 2

[Article by Maj N. Panyukov: "The Warrant Officer School"]

[Text] Dear editors!

I have heard that there are special schools which train warrant officers. Would you please describe in detail the life and service of students at one of these schools.--Sergeant(Res) M. Malynshchuk, Chernovtsy.

They were only a few meters from the trench at the "enemy's" forward edge of defense, when the fiery, bluish-gray column from a detonated simulation charge suddenly appeared and soared into the air in front of one of the attacking tanks, and several rockets followed, one after the other. This meant that the combat vehicle had run upon a "mine."

"The track and the bogie wheel are damaged," was the hypothetical situation described by the instructor.

The tankmen barely had time to report the situation to the commander by radio, before a tractor from the maintenance and evacuation group drove up to help them. A minute later, cables had been attached to the "damaged" vehicle's towing hooks. A few more minutes--and the tank was in a shelter. The repairmen determined the nature of the damage and the possibility of repairing the vehicle right in the field.

The clattering of wrenches could now be heard, and the steel track rang under the heavy blows of a hammer. From the sound of the repairmen's work it was not difficult to see that the job was being performed by masters in their field. This was indeed the case. The maintenance and evacuation group included students from the warrant officer school of the Carpathian Military District--future company technicians and commanders of armored equipment repair platoons. During their training at the school they had thoroughly studied those combat vehicles which they would be handling in the units and mastered the procedure for identifying malfunctions and methods of correcting them.

Careful preparation for the exercise was also in evidence. The future company technicians and commanders of repair platoons had studied in technical classrooms with cut-away models of the vehicles, on an electric model of the terrain with possibilities for choosing various operational versions of the forthcoming exercise, at the combat equipment pool and on the terrain.

Students studying other specialties at the school also prepared painstakingly for the exercise. The future company sergeant-majors learned how to properly maintain the sub-unit administration and services under field conditions; the commanders of antiaircraft gunner platoons practiced organizing the subunits' antiaircraft defense in various kinds of combat operations; the chiefs of the armored equipment depots clarified the procedure for setting up storage facilities in the field; the range service specialists performed their "magic" to create a target set-up and a simulation system. Prior to their departure for the exercise each of them took a sort of test in a classroom outfitted with group- and self-monitoring instruments.

I met graduates of this school at tank and other kinds of training grounds and at the firing ranges of various districts. I heard many good things about them from both their subordinates and their commanders.

"The graduates of this school are making an important contribution to the accomplishment of those important tasks now facing the units and subunits," commented Colonel General V. Belikov, commander of the Carpathian Military District. "The majority of them are confidently commanding platoons, skilfully operating the military equipment and setting examples of efficient performance.

State awards were bestowed upon many of the school's graduates, some of them have already been promoted to the new military rank of senior warrant officer, and others have studied as extramural students and passed the tests to become officers. Many graduates of this school stand out for their good methodological skills and thorough knowledge of their job.

To what can we attribute all of this? First of all, to the precisely organized training process. It has become the rule at the school, for example, to thoroughly go over every lecture, every practical exercise and drill plan at joint conferences of instructors, commanders, political workers and members of the training department. I had the opportunity to attend one of these meetings. It was a no-nonsense discussion among people united by the single concern of how to make more efficient use of the training time. The young instructors were given many valuable suggestions, for example, by experienced instructors such as Lieutenant Colonel M. Dyachok, chief of the tactical and tactical special training series and Lieutenant Colonel V. Volkov, chief of the technical training series. Following that meeting some of the officers had to sit down at their work again, in order to include the new examples and facts in their lectures and to improve the plans.

As I studied the organization of the training process at this warrant officer school, I noticed that many of the practical classes are conducted by the students themselves.

"This is one way of developing good methods skills in the future warrant officers," I was told by Lieutenant Colonel A. Gopta, chief of the school. "We try to see that every student conducts several of these classes in the course of his training."

More than 20 subjects are taught at the school. They include tactical training, party-political work, military topography, Soviet military law, military medical training.... The students operate tanks, infantry combat vehicles, armored personnel carriers and motor vehicles and learn how to operate communications equipment and to fire all types of small arms and tank armament. The students perform the firing purposively, as though they do not feel the tension of the training program.

"It is interesting to study at our school," said student Nikolay Kompaniyets. "Every class, every drill is a step up toward one's elected specialty, after all."

Nikolay showed me a letter he had just written to his father, Warrant Officer Ivan Nikolayevich Kompaniyets, sergeant-major of a tank company: "I too will soon be a sergeant-major of a tank company," the letter read. "I become more and more convinced each day that this is highly interesting work. I like it here at the school. We are taught to be thrifty managers, to be skilful indoctrinators and good specialists. I dream of learning to fire from a tank as skilfully as you and to operate the tank just as skilfully during my training here...."

Student Rubik Paronyan spoke warmly of the school, as though about his own home. He is also a warrant officer's son. His father, Ayrabet Khachaturovich, has served 26 years in one of the tank regiments of the Transcaucasus Military District and commands a motor vehicle platoon.

When the decision was being made about Rubik Paronyan's enrollment in the warrant officer school, Ayrabet Khachaturovich sent his son a newspaper clipping containing Leonid Il'ich Brezhnev's letter to Warrant Officer Yu. M. Prokof'yev. "This letter would be a good parting gift for any warrant officer," his father wrote. "I believe that it will help you, son, to better understand the importance of our service, the importance of our work, the prestige of being a serviceman...." Ayrabet Khachaturovich underlined Comrade L.I. Brezhnev's statement about the need to study persistently and make a determined effort to master the first-rate military equipment, especially for his son. Student Paronyan accepted this the same way a soldier receives the commander's combat order. He is an excellent student.

There is more to life at the school than just training, of course. The day I arrived at the school I was invited to visit the club. A special evening discussion on the subject "My Homeland" was scheduled there. It had been set up at the party organization's initiative. It might have appeared that the students only talked about their native villages and cities during the meeting, but the discussion was actually broad in scope. The information presented that evening helped the men to gain a better understanding of the great achievements made in our nation during the years of the 10th Five-Year Plan and of plans outlined by the party for the 11th Five-Year Plan. That evening of discussion was just one of the activities conducted at the warrant officer school under the plan for publicizing 26th CPSU Congress decisions.

A day before the tactical exercise the student ensemble directed by Warrant Officer N. Gubchuk, a recent graduate of the school, visited one of the Ukrainian villages and presented a concert there. The kolkhoz workers liked the songs and dances performed by the students. They received lengthy applause and invitations to visit there again. A group of students headed by Lieutenant N. Grishin, secretary of the Komsomol committee, spent several days working at Secondary School No. 17, helping the students, who are under their sponsorship, to prepare for a military sports festival. Immediately prior to leaving for the exercise the chief of the school received a telephone call from the director of a local plant, who thanked him for the interesting political briefing conducted in one of the shops by student Yevgeniy Sakara, a deputy in the city soviet of workers' deputies. After the tactical exercise is over the students will be treated to a concert at the school club by amateur performers from a clothing factory.

The exercise is still underway, however. There is the thunder of battle. The future warrant officers are learning the science of gaining victory.

The term warrant officer [praporshchik] comes from "prapor," an ancient word meaning "standard." This is symbolic. The standard-bearer is always out front. And not just during an attack or in a parade, but in the day-to-day work, exhibiting a high level of training and skill, which are produced and perfected in each exercise and each drill. The tactical exercise, with which I began my account of the warrant officer school, was one step toward the acquisition of skill.

The maintenance and evacuation group headed by Sergeant N. Paskal'nyy, performed its task successfully. It took the students only a matter of minutes to repair the "damage." They considerably bettered the standard time set for this operation. The tank returned to the attack.

11499

SSO: 1801/293

MILITARY SCHOOLS AND ACADEMIES

READERS' QUESTIONS ON SCHOOLS ANSWERED

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 30 Apr 81 p 4

[Questions from readers and answers by Col Gen A. Zvartsev, deputy chief of the Main Personnel Directorate of the USSR Ministry of Defense: "Who is Wanted at the Military Schools"]

[Text] Many letters from the readers of KRASNAYA ZVEZDA begin with the words: "I dream of becoming an officer." Young people preparing to enter military schools send various questions to KRASNAYA ZVEZDA. At the editors' request, Colonel General A. Zvartsev, deputy chief of the Main Personnel Directorate of the USSR Ministry of Defense, answers some of them below.

Yu. Silyutin and V. Chelyshkin: May a military commissariat send a candidate to a school not indicated in the "orders"?

Yes, military commissariats have the authority to send candidates to schools not indicated on the selection list for the given military commissariat. There are military schools, however, where the entrance competition is stiff each year and the requirements are greater with respect to the general education, state of health and physical condition of those accepted for enrollment. The selection committee under the military commissariat, which includes representatives of party, soviet, trade union and Komsomol organs, may therefore refuse to send candidates not meeting the requirements to those schools to take the entrance exams.

A. Nikitin: Last year my papers were returned from the Military Medical Academy imeni S.M. Kirov with the notation: "Rejected due to unsatisfactory general education." How did they reach this conclusion, since I did not even take the exams?

The decision was made on the basis of your school certificate. The number of young people wanting to enter the Military Medical Academy, as well as other military schools, is increasing by the year. The grade average required for admission to the competitive entrance exams is also being raised. The personal records of the secondary school graduates are studied, and those with the best performance in secondary school are accepted to take the entrance exams.

P. Sirotin: On what basis are individuals who have graduated from school with a gold medal accepted at military schools?

Candidates who have completed secondary school with a gold medal or an honors diploma are accepted at secondary military schools without taking the exams. They take one entrance exam for higher military schools. A candidate receiving a grade of "excellent" is exempted from the remaining exams and has priority over those who receive "excellent" on all the exams. If he receives a grade of "good" or "satisfactory" on the first exam, he takes the remaining exams and is included in the general entrance competition. The field in which the above individuals must take the exam and the procedure for conducting the exam are determined by the military school and are announced to the candidates when they are notified of their acceptance to take the entrance exams.

A. Skornyakov: Is a military commissariat required to consider the candidate's choice of the school of a specific service of the Armed Forces or branch of troops?

Young people indicating a desire to become an officer select the military specialty of their choice. The military commissariat sends their papers to the military schools only at their wish and with their agreement.

M. Shklyarenko: I will be drafted into active military duty in the spring. I would like to enter a school this year. What should I do?

If you are drafted for active military duty in May-June, you can be sent to a military school next year from the unit in which you are serving. First-term servicemen, incidentally, have the right to enter military schools of any service of the Armed Forces and any branch of troops, regardless of their military specialty and length of service. In addition, privates, sergeants and warrant officers who have been experts in the combat and political training for at least a year and receive good grades on the entrance exams are accepted at military schools without competition.

Among individuals with the same overall grade average, rated specialists and candidates sent for training under Union Komsomol authorization issued by the political sections of formations and units are accepted on a priority basis.

B. Karimov: I was told at the military commissariat that in addition to the entrance exams, individuals entering flight and naval schools must also undergo a psychological job screening process. What does this consist of? Are the results of this testing taken into account for accepting individuals for training?

To explain it briefly, the psychological job screening process in the army and navy consists of a system of measures aimed at determining which candidates have the psychological qualities and professional inclinations (abilities) which meet the requirements for specific military specialties and are capable of completing the entire training program and then performing their functional duties well.

In the selection process young people desiring to become military pilots or naval officers are tested with instruments and given other tests to measure their concentration, memory, emotional stability, reaction speed, spacial coordination and other capacities. The results of the job selection process are considered for registration at a school and are, furthermore, the determining factors.

O. Sinkevich: Are individuals who wear glasses permitted to take the competitive exams?

Yes, they are, but not at all schools. The acceptability of a candidate with a sight impairment for admission to a specific school is determined by military medical commissions under the military commissariats.

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